

SEPTEMBER-OCTOBER 1983

Seventy-five Cents

VOLUME 74 NO. 5

ISSN 0008-1116

# California GARDEN



# HORTICULTURE CALENDAR

SEP 1,8,15,22,29 SAN DIEGO FLORAL EVENT	THURSDAY WORKSHOP with Colleen Winchell Free Floral Crafts Instruction — Open to the Public San Diego Floral Assoc. Garden Center, Balboa Park, San Diego 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. — Info: Mrs. Winchell 479-6433
SEP 11	SAN DIEGO BROMELIAD STUDY GROUP SHOW Casa del Prado, Majorca Room, Balboa Park, San Diego Sun. 11:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. — Free
SEP 17,18	SAN DIEGO DAYTIME AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY SECOND ANNUAL SHOW Casa del Prado, Majorca Room, Balboa Park, San Diego Sat. & Sun. 10:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. — Free
SEP 18	SAN DIEGO BOTANICAL GARDEN FOUNDATION SEPTEMBER FAIRE Displays from member organizations Casa del Prado, Room 104 & Patio 'A', Balboa Park, San Diego Sun. 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. — Free
SEP 20 SAN DIEGO FLORAL EVENT	FLOWER ARRANGING CLASS with Martha Rosenberg Casa del Prado, Majorca Room, Balboa Park, San Diego Tue. 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Information: Mrs. Hoyt 296-2757
SEP 24,25	SAN DIEGO BONSAI SOCIETY FALL SHOW Casa del Prado, Majorca Room, Balboa Park, San Diego Sat. 10:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Sun. 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. — Free
OCT 1,2	BALBOA PARK AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY FALL MINI SHOW Casa del Prado, Majorca Room, Balboa Park, San Diego Sat. 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Sun. 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. — Free
OCT 2	JAPANESE 3RD ANNUAL FRIENDSHIP GARDEN FESTIVAL Organ Pavilion Area, Balboa Park, San Diego Sun. 10:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. — Free
OCT 6,13,20,27 SAN DIEGO FLORAL EVENT	THURSDAY WORKSHOP with Colleen Winchell Free Floral Crafts Instruction — Open to the Public San Diego Floral Assoc. Garden Center, Balboa Park, San Diego 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. — Info: Mrs. Winchell 479-6433
OCT 11 SAN DIEGO FLORAL EVENT	FLOWER ARRANGING CLASS with Martha Rosenberg Casa del Prado, Majorca Room, Balboa Park, San Diego Tue. 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Information: Mrs. Hoyt 296-2757
OCT 15	SAN DIEGO CHAPTER, CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY ANNUAL PLANT SALE Casa del Prado, Patio 'A', Balboa Park, San Diego Sat. 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
OCT 15,16	IKENOBO CHAPTER OF SAN DIEGO 7TH EXHIBIT OF IKEBANA ARRANGEMENTS Casa del Prado, Majorca Room, Balboa Park, San Diego Sat. & Sun. 11:00 to 4:30 p.m. — Free
OCT 18 SAN DIEGO FLORAL EVENT	SAN DIEGO FLORAL ASSOCIATION MEETING & 2ND FALL FESTIVAL—OCTOBERFEAST Casa del Prado, Majorca Room, Balboa Park, San Diego Tue. 6:30 p.m. Information: Floral Office 282-5762
OCT 20	FLORAL DESIGNERS, INC. 37TH ANNUAL FLOWER ARRANGING SHOW & TEA First United Methodist Church, 4832 Tujunga Ave. North Hollywood, California Thu. 1:00 to 5:00 p.m. Donation \$3 Adults; 75¢ Children
OCT 22	SANTA BARBARA BOTANIC GARDEN ANNUAL PLANT SALE Garden Courtyard, 1212 Mission Canyon Road, Santa Barbara, California Sat. 1:00 to 4:00 p.m.
OCT 22 and 29 SAN DIEGO FLORAL EVENT	GARDEN STUDY COURSES Sponsors: San Diego Floral Assoc. & Palomar District, California Garden Clubs, Inc. Miramar College (San Diego) and Kartuz Greenhouses (Vista, Calif.) 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. (Saturdays) Information: Mrs. Cope 459-7688 or Mrs. Rosenberg 295-1537
OCT 22,23	NORTH SAN DIEGO COUNTY ROSE SOCIETY 17TH ANNUAL SHOW Camino Real Plaza (lower level), Carlsbad, California Sat. 1:00 to 6:00 p.m. Sun. Noon to 4:00 p.m. — Free
OCT 22 thru 30	LOS ANGELES STATE & COUNTY ARBORETUM "THE WORLD IN CALIFORNIA GARDENS" 301 North Baldwin, Arcadia, California — Weekdays Noon to 8:00 p.m. Weekends 10:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. (Oct. 30 only: 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.) Admission \$3.50 (includes parking)
OCT 30	OHARA SCHOOL OF IKEBANA 6TH EXHIBIT OF FLOWER ARRANGING (San Diego Chapter) Casa del Prado, Majorca Room, Balboa Park, San Diego Sun. 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. — Free
OCT 31 SAN DIEGO FLORAL EVENT	FLOWER ARRANGING CLASS with Adrienne Green Casa del Prado, Majorca Room, Balboa Park, San Diego Mon. 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Information: Mrs. Hoyt 296-2757



Published by  
San Diego Floral Association  
for 73 years.

California SINCE 1909  
**GARDEN**  
LIBRARY OF CONGRESS NO. ISSN 0008-1116

San Diego Floral Association & Garden Center

Casa del Prado, Balboa Park, San Diego, CA 92101  
Monday through Friday, 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.  
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SEPTEMBER - OCTOBER 1983

VOLUME 74

NUMBER 5

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© California Garden (USPS 084-020), a non-profit publication, is published bi-monthly by the San Diego Floral Association, Inc., a non-profit horticultural organization. Subscriptions are \$4.00 for one year, \$7.50 for two years. Entered as second-class matter, December 8, 1910, at the Post Office in San Diego, California, under the Act of March 3, 1879.

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A drawing by *Pat Maley*, a former San Diegan who illustrates for *California Garden* magazine and other publications.

POSTMASTER: SEND FORM 3579 TO:  
CALIFORNIA GARDEN, CASA DEL PRADO, SAN DIEGO, CA 92101

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CALIFORNIA GARDEN



## PASSIFLORA 'CORAL GLOW'\*

STEVE BRIGHAM & PATRICK WORLEY

*A Vine For All Seasons*

IDEALLY SUITED TO our mild coastal climate, passionflowers are popular vines that produce unique ornate flowers, beautiful leaves, and in some varieties delicious fruit. Of the more than 400 species in the genus, however, one of the finest ornamentals for our climate is a hybrid called 'Coral Glow.'

Developed by Patrick Worley several years ago, 'Coral Glow' is a complex hybrid combining the best characteristics of *P. mollissima*, *P. jamesonii*, and *P. manicata*. Unlike other hybrid passionflowers occasionally seen, 'Coral Glow' is a product of a three-stage controlled hybridization program that involved over a hundred seedlings and culminated with a vigor-inducing backcross to *P. jamesonii*. The result is a plant which grows faster, healthier, and produces flowers in greater abundance all year long.

'Coral Glow' is at its best in winter and spring when its five-inch glossy-green-lobed leaves are almost

completely obscured by equally-large coral-red flowers. During the hot summer months, the plant continues to bloom, but not as heavily. Sun-loving and fast-growing, a one-gallon size plant often is already blooming, and will climb by tendrils to cover 20 feet or more of cyclone fence in two years. The vine appreciates regular watering, although a two-year-old plant growing in clay soil in Vista, California, grew vigorously all summer with only monthly watering.

Like other passionflowers, 'Coral Glow' will grow large provided there is some support on which it can climb. Reaching the end of its support slows down its growth somewhat, as does pruning or shearing. Fences, walls, arbors, and even trees provide a good support of this vine, which is also suitable for use as an erosion-controlling ground cover on large slopes.

The vine is evergreen to at least 25° F., and will

often bloom right through a mild frost. Although some damage will occur at lower temperatures, mature plants have survived temperatures as low as 18° F. Young plants should be watered and fertilized regularly to get them established, and provided with a heavy mulch to keep the young roots cool and moist. Fortunately, 'Coral Glow' is so vigorous that it is less prone to damage by the caterpillars that feed on (and have evolved with) all passion flowers. Occasional spraying with a non-poisonous (to us) product containing *Bacillus thuringiensis*, will keep caterpillars in check should they appear.

\* 'Coral Glow' is a trademark name registered by Kartuz Greenhouses, Inc., Vista, California.

**Steve Brigham** is a specialist in flowering trees and shrubs at a nursery in Vista, California, featuring begonias, gesneriads, and other rare plants.

**Patrick Worley** has been hybridizing for 15 years and has many registered hybrids to his credit.

**NATIVE PLANT SALE**

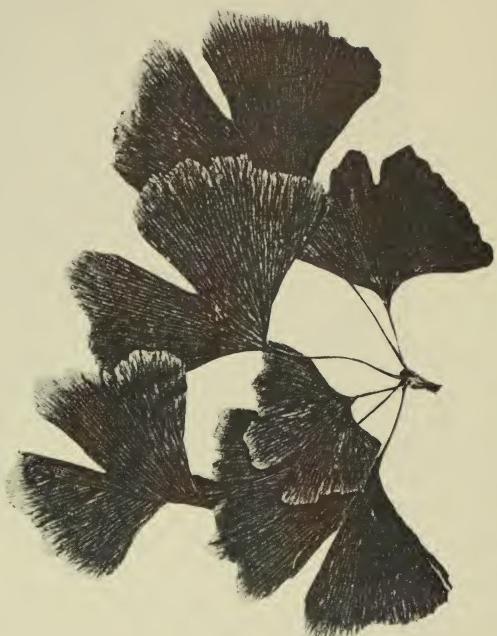
October 15, 1983      10 A.M. to 3 P.M.

Casa del Prado Patio A  
Balboa Park

sponsored by  
San Diego Chapter  
California Native Plant Society



Photo copy of live ginkgo leaves.



A VISIT TO OUR  
MAGAZINE ADVERTISERS  
CAN ANSWER MANY OF  
YOUR GARDENING QUESTIONS



## GINKGO BILOBA

The *Ginkgo biloba* (maidenhair tree), oldest existing tree species alive, is the only surviving member of its family. Dating to the dinosaur era and lost in the wild, it has been cherished by the Chinese; cultivated in sacred places. The tree's fan-shaped leaf, which reminded the Chinese of a duck's foot, turns glowing yellow in the fall. The malodorous fruit, properly treated, becomes an oriental fruit delicacy, called *gin* (silver) *kyo* (apricot) by ancient Japanese. The fruitless male tree is preferred as an ornamental and valued as a tough, pest-free attractive city and garden tree.

The unique shape of the ginkgo leaf has been an inspiration for beautiful designs in both Asia and Europe.

C.G.

# FALL COLOR

BARBARA S. JONES

NEWCOMER SOUTHERN CALIFORNIANS often bemoan the lack of colored trees in the fall, becoming very nostalgic for the phenomenon. Well, they have not looked in the right places! True, we do not have the extensive deciduous forests that are native to areas that have cold winters, but one can create his own color by planting trees that produce color in our milder, relatively frost-free autumns.

There are other reasons for planting deciduous trees. Often one desires shade in summer, but wants the warmth of the sun in the winter. Plant a deciduous tree in that spot.

The following are some of the 'color' trees that are easy to grow in southern California.

- Black Oak, *Quercus kelloggii*, a southern California native. This does not do well near the coast. It grows to 80 feet in good soil with much water. It is smaller and more picturesque when soil and water are not good. Leaves turn a yellowish-brown to orange.
- Chinese Pistache, *Pistacia chinensis*. This does well anywhere, and is tolerant of soil and water extremes. Young trees bush, but it can grow to 60 feet. The leaves turn a brilliant scarlet and orange.
- Ginkgo, *Ginkgo biloba*. A slow growing tree that will grow anyplace and will usually get about 35 feet tall with yearly trimming. It can reach 120 feet if growing conditions are ideal. Leaves turn a brilliant yellow. It is sometimes called 'Maidenhair-tree.'
- Liquidambars grow well everywhere except the mountains. Trees grow to a height of 40 to 60 feet, but have surface roots so gardening under them is difficult. The leaves turn a variety of colors, usually reddish, so trees of the desired color should be selected in the fall. *Liquidambar styraciflua* is considered to

have the best color with the variety 'afterglow' turning a lovely rose red. *L. orientalis* turns a dull purple.

- Maple-leaf Mulberry grows anywhere. It is fast growing, to 35 feet, but has surface roots. *Morus alba sibirica* is the most popular variety. The leaves turn yellow, but are not as brilliant near the coast.
- Modesto Ash, *Fraxinus velutina 'modesta'* grows anywhere. It is a spreading tree that can reach 50 feet. The leaflets turn a bright yellow. *F. v. 'Rio Grande'* is better for hot, dry areas with alkaline soil.
- Purple-leaf Plum, *Prunus cerasifera autropurpurea*, grows well anywhere. It is a fast-growing, small tree (30 feet). Its purplish foliage turns even redder in the fall. It has small edible fruit.
- Sour Gum, *Nyssa sylvatica*, tolerates diverse conditions anywhere. It does well as a lawn tree and can grow to 100 feet. The leaves turn a coppery-red.
- Sycamore, *Platanus racemosa*, is the picturesque tree seen growing in California canyons. It grows anywhere and can reach 50 to 70 feet. The leaves turn a brilliant yellow in the fall.
- Valley Oak, *Quercus lobata*, is the large tree (to 100 feet) which adds a park-like look to many public gardens. It can grow anyplace, but likes water. The leaves turn shades of yellow to a light brown.

Not all of these trees are deciduous. The individual gardener must select the best plant for his use. A local nurseryman may have other 'color' trees that do well in your area, too.

By planting one or more of these colorful trees, you can forever banish 'autumn nostalgia' while you bask in the warm, pleasant winter sunshine.

# A TIMELY PUBLICATION

HELEN CHAMLEE\*

*California Native Trees & Shrubs for Garden and Environmental Use in Southern California and Adjacent Areas*, by Lee W. Lenz and John Dourley. Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden, Claremont, California.

A BOOK IMPORTANT for our decade—one that is forcing us willy-nilly into a different kind of garden thinking. As water becomes more scarce and more costly, gardeners as well as shower-takers, car-washers, and teeth-brushers are going to accustom themselves to making do with less. In this book gardeners get practical advice from the people who have done with less for a long, long time, the people of Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden. Teeth-brushers will have to work out their own regime.

Authors Lee W. Lenz, long-time director of Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden, and John Dourley, its superintendent, have summarized the carefully recorded experiences of that garden. Records date back more than half a century and cover two separate gardens at different sites. Both of these gardens have always consisted of California's native shrubs and trees. These are the plants that, once well established (2 to 4 years for most), can persist with a minimum of help in our naturally far less than rich soils, with our average low rainfall, and long dry summers.

These plants look right here; they look western, and they are compatible with other plants that have evolved in similar light rainfall—dry summer environments, such as Australia. We will be seeing more and more of Australia's native shrubs, some of which have astonishingly attractive flowers on plants that survive with little moisture.

The chapter dealing with survivors of the first garden and conclusions regarding their survival is surely one of the most significant in the book, and it may

well be crucial to the survival of ornamental gardening itself in southern California. (This garden was abandoned in 1951, and 26 years later the site was carefully surveyed.) Of great interest is the rainfall figure of the native home of each of the survivors. Our Torrey pine, used to a rainfall of about 15 inches, was among the survivors; no plants of the redwood forest, used to 30 to 60 inches, lived through this long period of complete lack of care.

A long section, "Guide to Selected Species," describes more than 300 kinds of trees and shrubs; their cultural preferences are detailed, and many (192) are shown in color. Others are illustrated by black and white photographs and exquisite drawings. Then there are maps, discussions of plant communities, a section on choice cultivars, and a chart showing which plants are suitable for seven different natural environments we find in our southwest.

I quote from the introduction: "This volume is directed to several audiences; to landscape architects, park superintendents, nurserymen, highway planners, and commercial developers; the college and university students in ornamental horticulture and environmental science, and to concerned citizens."

Our readers are there, and the time for re-thinking is here and now.

\* Editor's note: This book is available for reference in the San Diego Floral Association Horticulture Library. It was selected by Helen Chamlee before her death in 1982.

# A HISTORIC MILESTONE IN ORCHID HYBRIDIZING

BEN HARDY

THE WORLD'S FIRST six genera orchid hybrid has just been registered by the dean of orchid hybridizers: W. Goodale Moir, Honolulu, Hawaii. It is a combination of apasia, brassia, coeliodia, miltonia, odontoglossum, and oncidium. On the 12th of February, 1976, Goodale made the cross of *Forgetara Mexico* x *Burrageara Sambu River*, using the forgetara as a pod parent. It bloomed in 1982, and the registration of it has been accepted by the Royal Horticultural Society as *Brilliaendeara Gary*. It was named for Gary Brilliande, a long time friend of Goodale's, who has helped him a great deal with his hybridizing in recent years during his incapacitating illness.

The result of this first flowering is a white miltonia-like flower with reddish barring on the petals and red markings on the lip towards the center. Though not a striking or sensational flower, it does reflect the

strong miltonia shape from the five miltonia species in its background, four of them in the pod parent and one in the pollen parent. Of the twelve species orchids used to create this six level hybrid, five of them were miltonia. This heavy infusion of miltonia is evident in the end result, and is reflected in a chart showing the complete family history of this milestone hybrid.

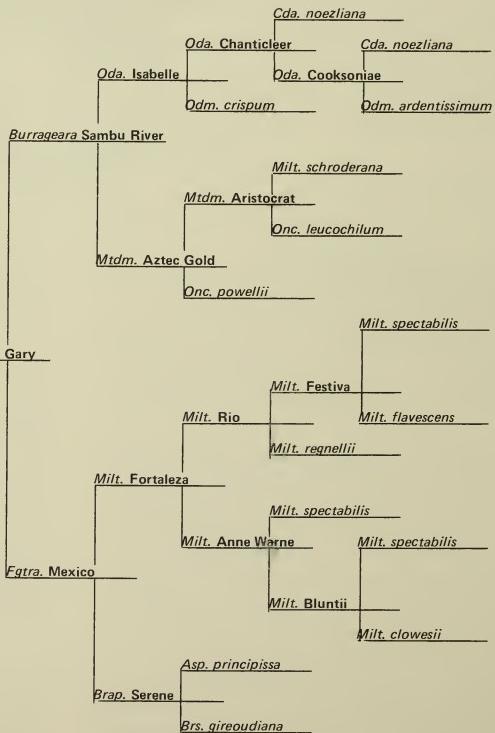
It is interesting to note that six of the hybrids that are in the background of *Brilliaendeara Gary* were creations of Goodale: *Braspasia Serene* (1959); *Burrageara Sambu River* (1974); *Forgetara Mexico* (1972); *Miltonia Fortaleza* (1966); *Miltonia Rio* (1958); *Miltonidium Aztec Gold* (1967).

This outstanding achievement is the first sexageneric hybrid registered in the whole of the plant and animal kingdom.



*Brilliaendeara Gary*

*Gary*



# CHRYSANTHEMUMS: IMPERIAL FLOWER

SHARON SIEGAN



Drawing by PAT MALEY

NAMED THE NATIONAL flower of Japan in 910, the chrysanthemum was further honored in the 12th century when a sixteen petal bloom was chosen for the imperial crest. As with many of Japan's early imports, chrysanthemums came from China where they had been cultivated as a garden flower since pre-Christian times.

About the middle of the first millennium, T'ao Ming Yang, Chinese scholar and 'botanist,' developed many of the sophisticated forms represented in oriental art. Their stylized appearance may be found on scrolls, pottery, screens, fabrics, and other decorated items. T'ao himself was captivated by the exquisite beauty of his hybrids and planted them in meditation gardens. So famous did they become, that his city was named Chusien - "City of Chrysanthemums."

Despite its elegance and elevated status, the chrysanthemum developed from humble beginnings. A member of the Compositae family, its precursor was

a daisy-like bloom found brightening the fields with its golden harvest. The Greeks called it "golden flower" or "chrysanthemum."

Most people think of chrysanthemums as ushering in the autumn season, adding brilliant color to gardens and football fans. These are the spectacular blooms generally referred to as "florists" for reasons to be discussed later. However, there are many other chrysanthemum varieties (notably daisy-like) that bloom from spring on. One of the most popular is *Chrysanthemum frutescens*, familiarly known as marguerites. If cut back after their spring flowering, these hardy perennials will add their gay touch to borders again in early fall. Pyrethrum, the painted daisy, also shares this reblooming bonus.

Costmary and feverfew grow weedlike, blossoming profusely from early spring through summer. Both have scented leaves, costmary's sweet fragrance is a sachet ingredient, while feverfew is more likely to

offend olfactory sensitivities. Their cousin, the shasta daisy, is a bold summer performer.

The nippon daisy (*C. nipponicum*), grows particularly well in seashore gardens, and unlike the other hardy perennials mentioned above, does not die back to the ground in winter. Consequently, this late fall blooming, bushy subshrub lends itself to featuring as a single specimen or rock garden accent.

The most versatile, varied and glorious, are *C. morifolium*, the so-called florists' mums. These flowers are the direct result of breeders' skills—the practical gardeners and nurserymen from the Orient, Europe, America and Australia, who, over the years have painstakingly improved their stock. Despite this long history of progress, until the introduction in 1932 of a Korean hybrid, few varieties bloomed early enough to avoid the killing frosts of America's temperate zones. They could all be grown in greenhouses, but not outdoors. The Korean imports gave a new impetus to garden-grown chrysanthemums, and even in our hospitable San Diego climate, these hardy blooms, cultivated for their bewildering variety of color, form and size, constitute the mainstay of chrysanthemum landscaping.

In the 1920's, florists learned to control bloom time, allowing them to market chrysanthemums throughout the year. The trick was simple—keep them in the dark!

Chrysanthemums are short-day plants and bud initiation occurs with ten to eleven hours of uninterrupted darkness. Therefore, it is only necessary to cover the plants nightly, counting back from desired bloom time the number of weeks required for bud maturation, and *voilà*—bloom on command! Depending on variety, chrysanthemums bloom about seven to fifteen weeks after bud formation. Since night temperatures above 60° F. will delay budding, several additional days of blackout treatment should be added to compensate for this factor. Florists actually shade their chrysanthemums about twelve hours daily. Longer darkness reduces the hours of photosynthesis, weakening the plant, and may cause heat buildup, with wilt problems.

Shading may be discontinued when buds have become well established—about a month after beginning this procedure. Flowering will then proceed on schedule.

Shading mechanics are simple: drape black plastic or a lightproof black cloth over a framework to enclose, without touching, the plants. This can be used in garden or greenhouse. So if you are planning

a midsummer garden party and want your chrysanthemums in full flower, check your plants' bloom schedule—and shade away.

Withholding (or preferably interrupting) darkness, will delay blooming. To effect this, suggested nightly light intervals are: two hours in August and May, three hours in September, October, March and April, and four hours from November to February.

Florists' mums constitute the majority of the approximately 200 species included in the genus. Like its daisy forbears, each species (but not always each member), contains a center of seed-producing disc florets. These are encircled (and often completely covered) by petal-like ray florets—one of the hybridizer accomplishments. The vast variety of bloom and petal forms serves as the basis for the thirteen categories officially adopted by the National Chrysanthemum Society. With slight modification, this classification is used in standard flower shows.

Disc florets are conspicuous in only four classes: single, semi-double, anemone, and spoon. In all others, discs are almost, or entirely, concealed. Pompons, brush and thistle are named for their bloom form, while the nature (shape, arrangement) of the ray florets differentiates spider, thread, quill, reflex, regular or irregular incurve. The last category is unclassified, to include all cultivars not covered by the foregoing classes.

All of these chrysanthemums are easily grown, advises Sunset Western; not so prize-winners, which require "more water, feeding, pinching, pruning, grooming and pest control than most perennials."

But whether you want landscaping or blue ribbon specimens, the best start you can give your mums is to set them out fresh each year—either from divisions or cuttings. Cuttings are preferred if you are bothered by nematodes. Cuttings should be taken from 9"-10" shoots which have been carefully watered so that their stems and foliage remain dry. This precaution prevents the nematodes from swimming up the stems and entering young leaves. It also means that your cuttings must come from covered cold frame or greenhouse stock.

Mums should be planted in garden soil that is deep, fertile, well drained, and with a pH of between 6-7. A week or two prior to planting, apply a complete general purpose fertilizer, working it into the upper 3-4 inches of soil. Plants should be set out in early spring, preferably after the heavy rains. Plant only outside divisions, discarding woody centers. And watch out for birds! Flocks have descended on my

newly set-out marguerites, devouring the tender greens in short order. (Screening will offer protection from these marauders.)

Mums prefer full sun on the coast, require afternoon shading inland. They are also quite sensitive to watering, developing woody stems and lower leaf drop if underwatered. Overwatering results in yellowing, blackening leaves which then drop. Water deeply, the frequency depending on soil and weather conditions.

Seasonally, plants should be fed twice with high nitrogen, followed by a third and final low nitrogen feeding about two weeks prior to bloom. Pinching is not necessary with hardy mums, but will increase both sturdiness and flower size. Pinch out the tip of new plants and continue all summer to nip out the top pair of leaves on five inch shoots. Disbud for exhibition specimens. Tall plants require staking, and all mums are subject to aphids.

Now that you have properly nurtured and cultured your chrysanthemums, take time out to contemplate their stately beauty—this living testimony to man's continuing search for infinite variety and perfection.

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# PLANTING TIME

ALLETHE MACDONALD

FALL IS THE TIME, in most parts of the United States, when gardeners are harvesting the last of their vegetables, putting away their tools, cutting the chrysanthemums and the few summer flowers still blooming, and making preparations for winter protection of the more tender plants. For newcomers to mild winter climates it takes a bit of adjusting to the idea that fall is one of the prime times to plant many of the vegetables, annuals, perennials, native plants, and bulbs, and also for propagating and dividing. There is no time better than the rainy season to get plants started; the rain water is slightly acid, the moisture goes deep so roots will grow down instead of spreading along the surface in search of moisture. The necessity of getting the roots deep is exceedingly important for optimum plant growth.

## VEGETABLES

Beets • Plant seeds 1 inch apart in good loose soil; cover with  $\frac{1}{4}$  inch of compost, sand, or vermiculite and tamp firmly. Thin plants 2 inches apart, and keep well watered during dry weather.

Beans • Bush green beans and wax beans planted in the warmest protected areas of the garden will mature in 50 to 60 days unless the weather deviates from the norm and turns cold and rainy. Moisten the soil thoroughly before planting and do not water again until the seedlings appear. A cool-season vegetable that is different is fava or broad bean, which is not a true bean at all, but it grows like a bean and is eaten as a bean.

Cabbage and other cole vegetables (broccoli, brussels sprouts, napa or chinese cabbage, cauliflower) • These vegetables thrive in cool weather. Set out a few cabbage plants every 10 days to 2 weeks. Keep plants moist at all times and fertilize lightly, but frequently, with nitrogen fertilizer. Seeds may also be planted.

(Editor's note: See Rosalie Garcia's article in this issue on broccoli and brussels sprouts.)

Carrots • In most home gardens where the cultivated soil is usually not 12 inches deep, it is better to plant the shorter varieties. (Clay or hardpan layers are often close to the surface in San Diego County.) Sow seeds thickly and thin the seedlings when they are 2 inches high.

Greens • Almost all of them—mustard, chard,

turnips, spinach, and that favorite of southern people, collards—will produce abundantly. Make successive plantings to stretch the season.

Lettuce and Radishes • Plant a few seeds every week or so of radishes and several varieties of leaf lettuce to add interest and flavor to tossed salads. Feed both lightly and frequently. The short, round, red radishes are ready to pull in 3 weeks.

Edible Pea Pods • A few of both chinese (snow pea) and sugar pea plants will provide an abundance of a gourmet vegetable. It is important to dig the soil deeply and add compost or humus. Water thoroughly a couple of days before planting, but do not water again until the seedlings are showing. There are both vining and bush types.

## ANNUALS & PERENNIALS

Calendulas • Plant them early to enjoy their cheerful bright lemon-yellow and orange, as well as apricot and gold blooms, before the pests become a problem. Plant either seeds or from pony packs.

California Poppies • These poppies are not wildflowers any more. There are hybrids ranging in color from rose-pink to scarlet-orange and blooms that are semi-double and double. One of the hybrids has large brilliant rose-red, fluted, semi-double blooms. Sow the seeds in place.

Clarkia • A delightful old-fashioned flower. The double-flowered ones come in many colors. Sow the seed in place; they are difficult to transplant. Clarkia needs moisture at all times.

Larkspur • This is one of the few beautiful blue flowers and it is easy to grow. Plant it now for spring bloom.

Nasturtiums • Grow them not only for their fragrance and blooms, but for their spicy flavor when both stems and blooms are added to salads and herb butters. Easy to grow in poor soil.

Snapdragons and Stock • Both are at their best in cool weather, giving the gardener long lasting cut flowers for several months. Plant either seeds or from pony packs. Buy the rust resistant varieties of snapdragons which come in jewel colors. The spicy sweet fragrance of stock is found in all strains from 15 inches to 3 feet in height.

Sweetpeas • Who can resist sweetpeas? Blooms for Christmas and New Year are possible if you hurry and plant one of the early flowering varieties. For later blooms, choose the spring flowering type.

#### BIANNUALS

Flowers, such as scabiosa and delphiniums, need to be planted now. It takes over a year for them to become well-established and produce that beautiful display of color.

#### PROPAGATING AND DIVIDING

Fall is an excellent time to propagate plants from either stem or leaf cuttings. Geraniums and begonias are two which do well.

Plants divided now will become well established before blooming time next spring. Agapanthus, shasta daisies, and bird-of-paradise are some that will benefit.

#### NATIVE PLANTS

Anemone Bush • A large shrub, *Carpenteria californica*, has dark green glossy leaves and in summer fragrant white flowers. A handsome shrub.

Woolly Blue Curls • A 2 to 4 foot high shrub with aromatic leaves and striking blue flowers in spring and summer.

Ceanothus • Commonly known as California lilac, this is one of the most popular native plants. The shades of blue range from palest blue to cobalt in the hybrids. Visit the speciality nurseries or any good nursery to see them.

California Fuchsia • An excellent low-spreading plant for rock gardens, *Zauschneria californica*, has bright orange-red flowers.

Browse the nurseries and pore over seed catalogues for plants that grow and produce best in cool weather. You will be amazed at the abundance.

## LAGERSTROEMIA INDICA

CRAPE MYRTLE, or pride-of India (*Lagerstroemia indica*), is really native to China, but appears to have been introduced via India. Highly decorative, with attractive shredding bark, it is a spectacle of white, pink or lavender-rose bloom in late summer, when few other flowers blossom. It is partial to heat and has been much loved in the South. Linnaeus, the 18th century doctor/botanist who devised the useful scientific classification practice of giving each living organism two descriptive names (binomial nomenclature), named this shrub/tree for his Swedish merchant friend, Magnus von Lagerström.

C.G.

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## PANSIES

PANSIES - do you find yourself smiling back when you come across a bed of the little faces that enchant both children and grownups? Few flowers seem to make the personal contact that pansies do.

Pansies, violas, violets are "kissin' cousins" and all three have fairly similar requirements, but pansies can tolerate a little more sun. A loose, rich soil that can be kept moist gives the best results. Although classified as perennials but treated as annuals, a bed of these beauties, full of vibrant color and with velvety

### LOIS DONAHUE

texture, can be grown almost year round in either the open ground or in the large wide pots which are so popular now. Removal of dead flowers ensures continual bloom. Pansy diseases, once started, are very difficult to eradicate from the soil; so, it is best if pansies are not planted year after year in the same bed.

Enjoy your pansies indoors, too. Flowers cut with some of the stalk make lovely bouquets and the faint spicy aroma is most pleasing.

# POT A PLANT FOR CHRISTMAS

SKIPPER COPE

HAVE YOU EVER thought of looking in your garden for holiday gifts? If you have scented-leaved geraniums, calendulas, dwarf marigolds, nasturtiums, or any of those lovely garden chrysanthemums that, like garden roses, are so much prettier than the stiff, forced blooms on florist plants, you have plenty of candidates for charming gifts.

Plant them in an attractive container or put an ordinary plastic pot in a pretty basket or macrame hanger for an individual touch. Imagine a wall hanger filled with cascading nasturtiums, lobelias, or variegated ivy. Who would not be delighted with such a holiday gift?

First, choose stocky plants with more buds than blooms and be sure they are pest free. Dig them with a ball of dirt to avoid breaking their roots.

Select roomy containers. To go on blooming after they have been transplanted, the plants need room for all of the feeder roots.

Provide quick drainage. Fill the bottom of each pot with at least 1 inch of sphagnum moss, gravel or broken crockery. Set the root ball on this and surround with planter mix or topsoil with humus added. Tamp firmly to prevent air pockets.

Water generously. After potting, soak thoroughly; a few drops of a vitamin B hormone solution added to the water helps to reduce shock. Leave the plants outdoors in the shade for several days. Continue to keep well watered until they have had time to recover from transplant shock.

Keep cool and humid. Leaves may yellow and drop if the air is too hot (over 75° F.). If necessary set pots on a 1- to 2-inch layer of pebbles in a tray of water. After a few days the plants will look as if they had never been moved.

If your garden does not have any plants suitable for moving into pots this year, do not despair. There is still plenty of time to plant caladiums, callas, or amaryllis in time for Christmas. These three are

among the showiest and easiest of gift plants to grow. Striking fancy-leaved caladiums are grown from tubers. Average size plants will grow in six to eight weeks. The highly decorative small callas have white, rosy white, pink, or yellow blooms with lance-shaped leaves that are darker green with white spots. The gorgeous red or pink amaryllis have long strap-like leaves and remain an interesting plant even after the bloom is gone.

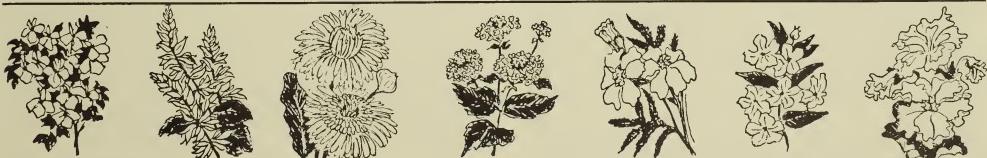
Soil. Use one-half good rich topsoil and one-half fine milled peat moss or purchase a suitable planting medium from a nursery. They all need plenty of nourishment and, like the garden flowers, good drainage to develop into suitable gift plants. Caladiums and callas need warmth and a minimum of 70° F. to start and promote maximum growth. On the other hand, amaryllis need to be kept very cool to start growth.

Start the rough caladium tubers, top side down, on damp soil or a sponge until the roots start close to the crown. Turn the tuber over to plant and cover it with one inch of soil. If planting a large pot, allow one and a half inches between tubers. Keep warm and give them plenty of water after the top growth starts.

Set calla rhizomes with the tips just above the soil surface—one to a 6-inch pot. Keep warm and well watered after top growth starts.

The best amaryllis bulbs are about the size of a teacup. Set them in pots so that one-third of the bulb is above the soil line. Keep the soil at least one inch below the pot rim for easier watering. Drip water down the sides of the pot rim until the soil is thoroughly moist, and then give no more water until after growth starts. Store at 50° F. until the buds show, then move gradually to a warmer place. Once in flower, they need water daily.

Although these have all been suggested as ideas for holiday gifts for others, you might consider one of them as a holiday gift to yourself. After all, who could deserve it more!





Drawing by Joyce Quade

AROMATIC  
WREATHS  
FROM THE  
HERB GARDEN

BERN NEIL

THE FRAGRANCE OF HERBS has been enjoyed for centuries, but in recent years herbs have been usually associated with cookery. Why not enjoy this fragrance again by making a dried or fresh herb wreath? It is simple to do and gives one an opportunity for artistic expression.

#### Dried Herb Wreath

For a dried herb wreath, choose herbs to dry for their color, fragrance, or sentimental meaning. The base material should be gathered in September. Mugwort, *Artemisia vulgaris*, may be used or other artemisias may be substituted for a gray-colored background; namely *A. 'Silver King'* or wormwood.

A wreath frame may be purchased at a floral or craft shop, or may be made by bending a wire coat hanger into a circle. Tie fresh artemisia stems to the wreath frame until you have a full circle the width desired. (The herb will not bend after it has dried.) Usually a clockwise direction is followed when tying the stems.

Suspend the finished frame for a few days in a warm dry place out of the sun and upside down so the leaves will stand out as they dry. After they have dried sufficiently so as not to sag, they may be hung or laid flat in a warm dry place until you are ready to finish the wreath. The herbs may also be dried by circling

them in a basket to get the round, curved effect you want.

For accents in the wreath, dry colorful herb blossoms such as tansy, yarrow, everlasting, feverfew, rue, globe amaranth, statice, or other blossoms by hanging them upside down in a dry place out of the sun. They will pick up moisture at night if dried outdoors. Small bunches or tufts of these herbs are tucked or wired onto the base in any pattern or color you choose. Some wreathmakers use fast-drying glue or green-coated wire (available from a florist supply shop); green thread, fern picks or hairpins, or a floral adhesive can also be used. Decorate with bunches of spices for a kitchen wreath; with seed packets of herbs if it is a gift for a new gardener; or with fragrant herbs or flowers for a Victorian wreath.

#### Fresh Herb Wreath

To make a fresh herb wreath, purchase a wire wreath frame from a florist or craft shop. Stuff it full with sphagnum moss and secure the moss by wrapping the frame with thin green wire or thread, or nylon fishline. Dampen the moss well.

Condition the fresh herbs by hardening them in water overnight. Tuck them securely, in bunchlets or in single stems, into openings in the sphagnum moss. Sprigs 3 to 5 inches can be used. Alternate the stems from center to outside edge or fill in a complete row of one particular plant around the inside or outside edge. Color accents are best placed toward the center of the circle. The wreath will keep fresh for a long time if kept cool and misted with a spray of water when needed. Many of the herbs will form roots

in the moss. Replace any material that wilts. Keep a tray under the wreath if used flat on a table or under a punch bowl. In California, protect from winter sun if used as a door decoration.

Materials for the background can be fresh juniper, ivy, or rosemary. Decorative herbs can be sage or artemisia, thyme, rosemary, rue, santolina, lavender foliage or blooms, pennyroyal, costmary, lambs-ear, myrtle, fragrant geraniums, or any plant material of your choice.

These wreaths are not only fun to build for your own home, but it is joyous to share herb gifts with friends. Everyone will appreciate the delicate fragrance of an aromatic herb wreath, especially during the cooler days when the home is usually closed.

Mrs. Neil, a member of the San Diego Herb Society and the Herb Society of America, has been an enthusiastic herbalist for many years.

*A knight was gathering flowers for his sweetheart when he slipped and fell into a rushing stream. Before he sank he tossed her the flowers and said, "Forget-me-not". Since that day these dainty blue-eyed flowers have signified eternal love the world over.*

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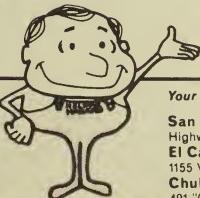
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# THE CLASSY 'CABBAGES', BROCCOLI AND BRUSSELS SPROUTS

ROSALIE GARCIA

MANY OF US remember the first time we ever saw broccoli and brussels sprouts. Even though they had been growing in the Mediterranean area of Europe and Asia before we had records, they had not 'caught on' in America until the 20th Century. For one thing, broccoli grows only in frost-free areas, and that was not where most of the population was; and brussels sprouts, although they will stand freezing, if not too much, do better in warmer areas.

Because of the way it was cooked, cabbage was not an 'elite' vegetable. Good old American thoroughness saw to it that cabbage was boiled with fat back until it was orange-yellow in color and stunk to 'high heaven.' By the time broccoli and brussels sprouts appeared in our markets, the French method of cooking vegetables had influenced Domestic Science classes in schools, the women's magazines, and the chefs in the better restaurants, so that these delicate cabbages, as well as the common old heads, were cooked in open pots until fork-pricking tender and seasoned with plain butter, salt, and pepper, or dressed-up with cheese and egg and vinegar sauces. Broccoli is best when steamed in an uncovered shallow pot and watched until they are tender, but still green. (no flabby stems of broccoli with yellow blossoms showing should be used. They are too old.) Of course, many Americans did not take to these 'half-cooked' vegetables, but the ones who did were determined to be stylish and perserved.

The cabbages are cool weather plants. They thrive along the cool Pacific Coast much of the year, as far north as freezing. The frosts improve the flavor of cabbage and brussels sprouts.

Broccoli, one of the cauliflowers, will grow along the southern California coast most of the year, but is best when plants are set out in late October and November to mature in January and February. They are slow growing and delicate. Seeds take only a few days to germinate, but do best when started inside and set out when plants are about 4 to 6 inches high. Even then they do not form 'heads' for about 1½ months. After the first plump head of buds is formed, cut it. Then fertilize and cultivate the plant a little, not disturbing the shallow roots, keep the soil moist,

and the reward will be small tender sprigs of buds for weeks.



Broccoli (*Brassica oleracea* var. *botrytis*)

The brussels sprouts grow slowly. It takes about 2½ months before the tiny heads form along the central stalk. They are not annuals, and will live and grow taller up to three years, as one of mine did. The heads become smaller as the stalk approaches 3 or 4 feet.



Brussels Sprouts (*Brassica oleracea* var. *gemmaifera*)

They may get infected with aphids which are so repulsive to many that they abandon the stalks. Aphids are not poisonous. Give them a good shot of a fine spray of water until the 'bugs' are gone and keep them off. There is no need to use a poison spray. Commercial growers use dusts, but with the home gardener's four or five plants, the hose is very potent and will also discourage many other garden pests.

Hybridizers have produced new varieties of the sprouts. They mature in about 80 to 90 days. The

early ones seem to be more productive, but since frost improves the flavor, have some of the later-growing ones. In the old days, plants were pulled up and hung up-side-down in cellars or dark halls and kept all winter, furnishing some welcome greens for the hungry who did not have supermarket refrigeration.

How did these unique little heads get their name? Little Belgium, wedged between so many European countries, is dependent upon its truck gardening for many things including recognition. They had good luck with their cabbages and began promoting these little heads, later calling them after their capitol city, Brussels. This sort of caught on and the name stuck, even through German, French, and Russian gardeners had been growing them in small quantities for ages.

Although the broccolis are subtropical and will not stand freezing, they come in purples (turn green when cooked) and white as well as the better known green. They are suitable and crunchy on the raw vegetable tray to use with a dip at a cocktail party. A mixture of green, purple, and white are a good conversation piece at a dull party! Also, broccolis come in early and late varieties, to cover a longer period. In southern California, one can count on a continuous supply from November to July, if plantings are planned.

Blessed are the *Brassicas* for they are ever with us!

Editor's note: *Brassica*, mustard family, contains *B. oleracea* var. *botrytis* and brussels sprouts, *B. o. var. gemmifera*.

**WIDE-ROW PLANTING** OF VEGETABLES HAS BECOME POPULAR BECAUSE OF THE EASE OF PLANTING AND BECAUSE THE YIELD IS FOUR TO SIX TIMES GREATER IN THE SAME GARDEN SPACE. SOME OF THE VEGETABLES SUITABLE FOR THE METHOD ARE: CARROTS, BEETS, LETTUCE, CHARD, SPINACH, COLLARDS, ONIONS, RUTABAGAS, TURNIPS, BEANS, AND PEAS.

THE WIDTH OF THE WIDE-ROW SHOULD BE ABOUT 10 INCHES (THE WIDTH OF A NORMAL STEEL GARDEN RAKE). IT IS EASIER TO CONTROL THE SPACE IF STRINGS ARE STRETCHED BETWEEN FOUR CORNER STAKES. AFTER DIGGING AND FERTILIZING, THE AREA SHOULD BE RAKED SMOOTH BEFORE THE SEEDS ARE SCATTERED, LIKE GRASS SEEDS BUT THINNER. FINE SEEDS CAN BE COVERED BY TAMPING WITH A HOE OR WALKING OVER THE BED. THEN A THIN LAYER OF SOIL SHOULD BE GENTLY RAKED OVER THE SEEDS AND TAMPED DOWN. (BEAN AND PEA SEEDS CAN BE PLANTED INDIVIDUALLY AT THE CORRECT DEPTH AND DISTANCE.) WHEN THE SEEDLINGS ARE ABOUT ONE-INCH TALL, THE BED SHOULD BE THINNED BY SLOWLY DRAWING AN IRON RAKE WITH STIFF TEETH ACROSS THE WIDE-ROW. LATER WEEDING AND THINNING IS DONE IN THE USUAL WAY, BY HAND, BUT THE ADVANTAGE IS THAT EACH TIME ONE STOOPS DOWN, A THREE-FOOT BY TEN-INCH AREA CAN BE REACHED IN BOTH DIRECTIONS. ACTUALLY, THERE WILL BE LESS WEEDING NEEDED AS THE LEAVES OF THE VEGETABLE PLANTS SHADE THE SOIL AND MAKE A SHADE MULCH WHICH DISCOURSES WEEDS.

B.J.

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# AN EXPEDITION TO COLLECT LETTUCE

THOMAS W. WHITAKER & R. PROVVIDENTI

THIS IS THE FIRST PART OF A SERIES OF THREE ARTICLES.  
PART II WILL APPEAR IN THE NOV-DEC 1983 ISSUE; PART III  
WILL APPEAR IN THE JAN-FEB 1984 ISSUE.

## PART I

### • INTRODUCTION

As any backyard gardener knows, lettuce is subject to depredations by a number of insects and diseases. At the present time these pests are mostly uncontrolled or only imperfectly controlled. These problems are even more serious for the commercial grower, where lettuce is planted in large monocultures ranging from twenty to hundreds of acres in a single block. The most common diseases are likely to be viral or virus-like, such as lettuce mosaic, cucumber mosaic, western yellows, big vein, and aster yellows. Also, the fungus diseases, downy mildew and sclerotinia drop, can be disastrous at times. Insect pests such as cabbage looper, beet army worm, white flies, and several species of aphids are a potential threat to the gardener as well as the commercial grower. It is clear these diseases and pests are a hazard to production for both the backyard gardener and commercial lettuce grower.

In this country and Canada, lettuce is the prime ingredient of most salads. In fact, for many people lettuce is synonymous with salads. There are only a few recipes for salads that omit the tasty, succulent leaves of lettuce. To satisfy consumer demand for salads, commercial lettuce acreage is estimated at about 250,000 acres valued at about \$650,000,000 yearly, second only to tomatoes in value as a fresh vegetable.

Because they originate from a very narrow genetic base, lettuce varieties currently in use in this country are extremely vulnerable to damage by various pests, both plant and animal. Many plant breeders and others have realized the inherent danger of this situation to crop production, and have suggested corrective measures. The most obvious method, and one that appears to offer relief within a reasonable period of time, would be to introduce new germ plasm into established cultivars. If we accept this mode of action, the problem immediately arises: where should we look for new germ plasm, presumably carrying resistance to diseases and insects?

Experience suggests that the most profitable area to search for a wide array of useful genes, such as resistance to virus, fungal diseases, and insect pests, is the center of origin of the crop species, in this case lettuce, and the wild species closely related to its cultivated relative. In material collected from indigenous areas, we might also expect to find genes that promote a more sturdy plant, coupled with a superior root system, resistance to drought, heat, cold, bolting, salinity, etc.

The evidence is good that cultivated lettuce arose from a group of closely related species native to the Mediterranean Basin, namely *Lactuca serriola*, *L. saligna* and *L. virosa*. There can be little doubt that lettuce was first domesticated in Egypt, from where its cultivation spread rapidly throughout the entire Mediterranean region.

Pictographs of lettuce have been photographed on the tombs of Egyptian Pharaohs. A study of these pictographs suggests they represent what we now call the cos or romaine-type lettuce, or possibly, what at an earlier date was known as "asparagus lettuce." One archeologist with expertise in such matters has suggested that the early Egyptians considered lettuce to be a fertility symbol, probably because of the milky latex that oozes from the veins of leaves and stems when the epidermis is bruised or broken. Another curious suggestion with some support is that lettuce was initially domesticated for the seeds rather than the succulent leaves. The seeds, when mashed, produce an edible oil, high in fat and protein.

Having decided upon the Mediterranean Basin as the most likely place to collect germ plasm of lettuce and its immediate ancestors, we were now faced with choosing the specific areas in which to concentrate our efforts, with only limited funds and time at our disposal. We finally settled upon western Turkey, adjacent to the Aegean Sea, and the western Pelopon-

nesus of Greece as the most promising areas in which to center our activities.

The Germ Plasm Committee of the Agricultural Research Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, funded the trip at a modest level (\$7,500.00). The expedition was organized and planned by Dr. G. A. White, Plant Introduction Officer, ARS, USDA. We were recruited to make the trip, probably because both of us had prior experience collecting plants in foreign countries. In addition, we have been actively engaged in lettuce research during portions of our scientific careers. Having chosen the plan outlined above, we collected in Turkey from June 7-27, 1982, and from June 28-July 7, 1982 in Greece.

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# THE VIRGINIA ROBINSON GARDEN

ROSALIE GARCIA

THE PUBLIC HAS been able to share in the pleasures of a number of estate gardens in Los Angeles County and a new one, the Virginia Robinson Garden in Beverly Hills, California, was opened recently to the public.

The first impression one gets upon entering this six and one-third acre garden is that the sloping hillside is a jungle, but as one wanders down the brick and stone paths that feeling is soon lost. There is much dappled shade, but the plants of varying heights are not crowded. To me, the tropical trees were the most interesting. We see all of them often enough in southern California that they are not new, but to see so many of them in one garden is unusual.

The coral trees of several varieties, *Erythrina humeana*, *E. caffra*, and *E. crista-galli*, must be glorious in bloom. They are pruned to fit into the landscape and should be beautiful even in winter.

The *Magnolia grandiflora* trees are old and large, but I noted nothing like the collection at the Huntington Gardens.

Because the palms are old and very tall, some up to 50 feet, they are arresting. There is a little grove of them about halfway down the side just below the entrance, but smaller ones are "fitted in" all over the park, giving a kind of feathery look to the entire garden.

Camellias and azaleas make up one of the nine gardens pressed into the hillside, and presented one of the many surprises we found as we followed the winding brick paths.

A large Moreton bay, *Ficus macrophylla*, shades many smaller shrubs. An enormous Montezuma cypress, *Taxodium mucronatum*, towers over another section of the hillside. There are several of these magnificent trees in other parts of the garden.

Of the nine gardens around two sides of the hill, all seem separate and private. Some have grassy lawns, surrounded by shrubs, others have annual flowers, some a mixture of small blooming shrubs, annuals, or perennials. Many of the older roses make up the rose garden. Roses were one of Mrs. Robinson's favorite plants and I am sure she could not resist the



A VIEW FROM THE TERRACE LOOKING TOWARD THE MANSION, WHICH STILL HAS ITS ORIGINAL INTERIOR FURNISHINGS.  
BILL GUNTER Photo

newer ones since there are three to eight bushes tucked in here and there all over the garden. Variety and surprises seem to be the theme.

Virginia Dryden and Harry Robinson, son of the founder of the Robinson Stores, were married in 1908 and set out on a three year honeymoon. While they were away her father built for them one of the first homes in Beverly Hills, California. One of Mrs. Robinson's main interests was plants and she soon learned that their estate had a favorable climate for the tropicals and subtropicals that she had seen on her travels. She was able to import and experiment with these plants in her garden for the next 67 years.

Now that the garden is in the care of the Los



HUGE OLD PALMS OF ASSORTED SPECIES COMprise THE  
MOST DOMINATING THEMATIC FEATURE OF THE VIRGINIA  
ROBINSon GARDENS.

BILL GUNther Photo

Angeles Arboreta and Botanic Gardens, it is projected that there will be some experimental and educational projects. Although it is a public park the plan is to admit, by reservation, small groups every day except Monday.

It is a pleasure just to wander around, following the brick paths in the dappled shade and reflecting upon the beauty created by this dedicated gardener. □

Editor's note: Virginia Robinson Gardens tours are conducted Tuesday through Friday, 10:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m.. Admission is \$3 adults; \$2.25 senior citizens and children. The tour involves a moderately strenuous hillside walk through terraced gardens. For more information, telephone (213) 446-8251.

MRS. JOHN R. KIRKPATRICK  
FEBRUARY 1890 - JULY 1983

San Diego, California has lost one of its finest floral artists. For many years Mrs. Kirkpatrick was instrumental in developing new trends in floral design. She taught classes for the San Diego Floral Association for over fifteen years. She will be missed.

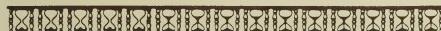


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BANKSIA, AND  
BAMBOO.



## 50 YEARS AGO

by Carol Greentree



"Garden Visit," September, 1933

One always anticipates a visit to the Scripps' lovely garden, called Brae Mar. . . everything about the place is different from other gardens. At the entrance there are so many paths leading in every direction. . . you just close your eyes and choose.

Vine-covered lath houses are ablaze with rare and colorful tuberous begonias. Suddenly you enter a tiny replica of an English cottage, with dainty little snapdragons and violas. A path runs wildly from this spot, and suddenly one is in a typical Mexican house with cacti, and such, as local color. Suddenly you see a straight path and glimpse a beautiful formal garden with a marble fountain. Here, the most lovely of our San Diego hostesses presides at a punchbowl with a fruit floral centerpiece frozen in ice. Next, we wander through a tropical jungle and enter a new rock garden with stones of weird shapes—from flowers to animals—and, look: over yonder is another formal garden within another, and before we know it, we are out of the garden and onto the seashore. . .

A flash of color draws us from the beach to a gay lawn setting of Italian pony carts and all sorts of things for children to adore. There are many bright zinnias and dahlias at this season. One thinks of all the happiness that must radiate in this garden for all those fortunate enough to be intimate with the owners.

C.B.F.

"The Gingers," December '33, by J. W. Elliott

The gingers are well worth a place in the gardens of southern California. They are vigorous growers of the easiest culture, with foliage resembling that of the canna. The variety that has flowered in my garden has twelve-inch spikes of pale yellow flowers that are extremely distinct, striking and beautiful. I obtained this variety in Honolulu a few years ago; it is now a clump eight feet across and six feet high, even though I have given a few plants away each winter. It is easily propagated by dividing the roots when the plant is dormant in the wintertime. Bailey lists six varieties, all of which can be obtained from Ellen Williams of Honolulu.

Medicinal ginger is prepared from dried roots; condimental ginger from the green. Candied ginger is made from carefully selected succulent young rhizomes which are washed and peeled and then preserved in jars of syrup. Housewives often preserve their own ginger. It is important, however, to protect the hands while scraping and washing, or they will "burn" for days. Ginger could probably be cultivated commercially in southern California.

### HOW TO PRONOUNCE

*Amaryllis* - am-ar-ill-is. The generic name *Amaryllis*

has been applied in the United States to

*Hippeastrum* - hip-pee-ast-rum, from which the amaryllis of horticulture is derived.

*Brassica* - brass-ik-uh; *oleracea* - oh-ler-ray-see-a

*Carpenteria californica* - kar-pen-teer-ee-uh  
kal-if-for-nik-ka

*Chrysanthemum* - kriss-anth-em-um; *mortifolium* -  
mor-ti-fol-um; *nipponicum* - nip-pon-ik-um.

*Fraxinus velutina* Modesto - frax-in-us vel-yew-tye-a

*Ginkgo biloba* - gink-goh

*Lactuca* - lak-too-ka

*Liquidambar styraciflua* - liik-wid-am-ber stye-rass-sif-  
lew-a

*Nyssa sylvatica* - niss-uh sil-vat-ik-a

*Pistacia chinensis* - pis-tay-shee-uh chin-nen-siss

*Prunus cerasifera* - proon-us see-ras-sif-er-a

*Quercus kelloggii* - kwurkus kellogg-e-i

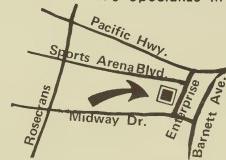
*Zantedeschia* - zan-ted-desh-ee-ahi (calla)

*Zauschneria* - zash-neer-ee-uh

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Reviewed by RUSSELL P. MacFALL

*The Crocus*, by Brian Mathew. Published in the USA by Timber Press, Portland, Oregon, 1983, \$50.00. Available from I.S.B.S., Inc., P.O. Box 2632, Beaverton, OR 97075.

A complete revision of the genus *Crocus* is a monumental job which has been accomplished superbly by this publication from the hands of a principal scientific officer of the Royal Botanic Gardens at Kew, near London. Mathew first describes the crocus plant in detail, then undertakes classification of the species before undertaking descriptions of the individual species which make up the bulk of the printed pages. Nearly half of the book is taken up with 96 book-size plates taken from sources from as far back as the last century as well as others commissioned for this work.

*Scientific Greenhouse Gardening*, by P. K. Willmott. Illustrated by Tony Gardiner. EP Publishing Ltd. Distributed by Sterling Publishing Company, 2 Park Avenue, New York, NY 10016; 1982, \$17.95.

From England comes this book described as the essential reference work for the serious amateur greenhouse gardener. Willmott, its author, formerly headed the horticultural department at an English college of horticulture. He appears to have covered his subject well with chapters on types of small greenhouses (heating and ventilating them) seeding, watering, pests, growing vegetables, fruits, and flowers, fertilizers, etc., with extensive tables on costs, fuels, and soil treatment, as well as ample illustration. Strictly business.

*Gardening with Native Plants of the Northwest, An Illustrated Guide*, by Arthur R. Kruckeberg. University of Washington Press, Seattle, Washington 98105, 1982, \$24.95.

Few regions of the world have such a diversity of soils, mountains, desert, and climates as the Pacific Northwest from southern British Columbia to northern California and east to the Rockies and Great Basin. Prof. Kruckeberg describes some 16 natural environ-

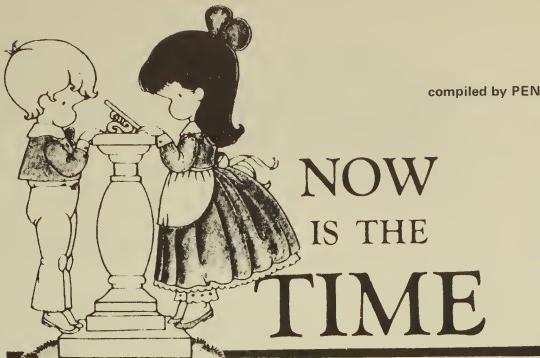
ments in that vast territory, and has produced what is described as the first book that identifies the rich variety of native ornamental plants that thrive there. Within the 250 plant species are 50 conifers and other trees, 75 species of shrubs and ground covers, and 125 species of herbaceous perennials, all of which grow wild as well as under cultivation in the region. Most of the described species are what the author regards as 'good garden plants.'

Each species is described, often with some of its history, and its habitat in the wild state, and then its peculiar contributions to garden purposes. Most of the detailed articles are accompanied with a photograph or sketch, the book is also well provided with appendices and bibliography. One commendable feature is the author's remarks about collecting in the wild without damaging plants or the habitat. He also provides information about plants that are difficult to germinate and that should therefore be obtained from nurseries.

Prof. Kruckeberg is professor of botany at the University of Washington, and this book is his monument to 30 years of specialized study of the flora of the Pacific Northwest.

*Seashore Plants of California*, by E. Yale Dawson and Michael S. Foster. New illustrations by Bruce Stewart. University of California Press, 2223 Fulton Street, Berkeley, CA 94720, 1982, \$15.95 (paperback \$7.95).

This is a combination of two books on California's marine vegetation by Dr. Dawson, of the Smithsonian Institution (who died in 1966, when they were published), with extensive revision by Dr. Foster of California State University, San Jose, California, with 900 miles of seacoast, is especially rich in plant life, mostly algae, with 240 species, of which 60 species are newly described. The book has 12 pages of color plates, many sketches of species, and extensive keys and glossary.



# NOW IS THE TIME

A CULTURAL CALENDAR OF CARE FROM OUR AFFILIATES

## BEGONIAS MARGARET LEE

Now is the time—  
to take some cuttings to extend your collection or to share.  
to give a final feeding for the year in October, unless you have fed all year round a balanced fertilizer.  
to start withholding water from tuberous begonias in October—of course, no feeding for tuberous.

## BONSAI DR. HERBERT MARKOWITZ

Now is the time—  
to keep moist—do not allow to dry-out. On hot days, spray after the temperature has cooled in the evening.  
to place plants under lath to protect from burning.  
to transplant some trees with care—better to just transfer from one pot to another size larger. Add new plant material if necessary.  
to feed young trees carefully using about 1/3 strength, to encourage the new growth.  
to trim and shape your deciduous trees.  
to wait until spring for any major transplantings.

## BROMELIADS JOYCE BREHM

Now is the time—  
to begin to decrease watering, but keep moist, especially during the dry Santa Ana winds.  
to not water more than once a week if the weather turns cool—do not water at all if rains begin.  
to remove the last pups before spring; if less than one-third their mothers size, leave on until next spring.  
to cut fertilization to  $\frac{1}{4}$  strength liquid formula—be sure to use a balanced formula.  
to keep cups clean. Dump the water from cups if cold spell hits—helps to prevent center rot.  
to be aware snails never sleep and continue control. Do not put bait in cups.

## CACTI & SUCCULENTS VERA PASEK

Now is the time—  
to divide overgrown plants and propagate new growth.  
to repot older rootbound plants—look for roots growing out of drainage holes.  
to keep the moisture level up, especially if Santa Ana winds occur.  
to feed with low-nitrogen fertilizer.  
to check for pests and take immediate action—scale and mealybug, use full strength alcohol either as a spray or dab with cotton swabs.  
Guard against slugs, snails, and insects.  
to protect new growth from sun scald.

## CAMELLIAS LES BASKERVILLE

Now is the time—  
to maintain a regular watering schedule. Do not let your plants go dry—keep moist but not wet.  
to keep up your pruning—nip out all unwanted growth.  
to start and maintain a disbudding program leaving no more than one bud on a tip.  
to feed monthly with a 2-10-10 fertilizer.  
to give feedings of iron.  
to start 'gibbing' hybrids and reticulatas about 1st of September.

## DAHLIAS ABE JANZEN

Now is the time—  
to maintain a regular watering program until the first of October, then cut down gradually.  
to feed with potash to promote root growth—it also helps them to keep better during the winter.  
to spray to prevent mildew and spider mite.  
to clean up old leaves and stalks, preparing for fall and winter storage.

#### EPIPHYLLUMS FRANK GRANATOWSKI

Now is the time—

- to maintain good grooming of your plants by removing dead, non-productive and unsightly branches thus conserving energy for the remainder of the plant. Remember the healthier branches will produce stronger blooms next spring.
- to protect plants from exposure to direct sunlight, and to prevent soil from completely drying out. An occasional misting or spraying of foliage can be beneficial.
- to protect new growth from wind damage.
- to bait for slugs and snails. A few granules of 'Slugetta' at the base of the plant is a very effective deterrent and leaves little or no residue.
- to practice preventive maintenance regarding insect control. Use insecticide such as Malathion and Orthene only if absolutely necessary. Be sure to read and follow instructions on labels.
- to give plants a final fall feeding of a good balanced fertilizer before they become semi-dormant.
- to protect the apples (seed pods) from pilferage by blue jays who are especially fond of the ripened fruit. In some cases, rats have been known to feed on them.

#### FERNS RAY SODOMKA

Now is the time—

- to protect from hot sun, but give maximum light.
- to water and maintain humidity by keeping surrounding areas damp.
- to fertilize once with a high nitrogen fertilizer.
- to plant spore of all varieties.
- to trim off dead fronds, keep plants well groomed.
- to check for aphids, mealybug, and scale; may use malathion-50. Keep snails, pillbugs, and slugs under control; use metaldehyde granules.

#### FUCHSIAS WILLIAM SELBY

Now is the time—

- to pick faded blossoms and seed pods.
- to maintain humidity by keeping area sprayed. Mist plants during Santa Ana days, but do not overwater. Best to water in the cool of the evening or early morning.
- to protect plants from hot, dry winds.
- to continue fertilizing for winter bloom.
- to spray for insect control, being sure to wet the underside of leaves, the hiding place for egg laying.
- to take cuttings from good healthy branches, using only the tender tips. October is the better month to propagate new plants.
- to keep cuttings in a cool place for 4 to 6 days, keep wet but not soggy.

#### GERANIUMS CAROL ROLLER

Now is the time—

- to water thoroughly when plants become somewhat dry. Allow the excess water to drain away. Keep foliage as dry as possible.
- to continue feeding a balanced fertilizer dissolved in water, using at half the recommended strength as often as needed to keep the plant growing well.
- to continue a pest and disease control program, using all products according to the manufacturer's directions.
- to begin pruning. On regals, scented, and similar types, at least one green leaf should be left on each stem.
- to make cuttings from the prunings. Shelter the cuttings from extreme weather.
- to keep unpruned plants well groomed by removing faded flowers and discolored leaves.
- to continue to rotate potted plants on a regular basis in order to produce well-shaped plants.

#### GESNERIADS MIKE LUDWIG

Now is the time—

- to protect plants from the changing rays of the sun.
- to control red spider mites brought on by dry, hot weather. Use a spray like kelthane to destroy them.
- to sterilize greenhouses to ready them for plants that you might bring in.
- to withhold water from achimenes. Achimenes can have water withheld to produce rhizomes. Store in vermiculite after they are prepared.
- to control any pests—this will keep them from the greenhouse.

#### HEMEROCALLIS LAWRENCE SMITH

Now is the time—

- to divide and transplant. Select healthy plants of two to four divisions; cut back the tops about halfway and plant in well prepared soil.
- to acquire and plant new cultivars. Members of plant societies will gladly advise you of worthwhile cultivars.
- to continue watering well. Fall weather is often hot and dry.



## IRIS SAN DIEGO-IMPERIAL COUNTIES IRIS SOCIETY

Now is the time—

- to clean up beds and discard old fans and debris.
- to control slugs and snails.
- to plant beardless iris—Spurias, Siberian, Louisianas, and Japanese varieties. Keep moist until well established. Louisianas and Japanese are grown in pots with pools or swampy conditions. to still divide and plant clumps of bearded iris.
- to feed established tall-bearded iris.
- to plant in October the Dutch bulbous iris for spring bloom.



## ORCHIDS CHARLIE FOQUETTE

Now is the time—

- to stay alert for our hot, dry Santa Anas with their high heat and low humidity. Frequent misting during this condition can help plants through these debilitating periods.
- to start your cymbidiums on your 'Hi-Bloom' (0-10-10) type fertilizer for good flower production.
- to start nobile type dendrobiums on the 0-10-10 fertilizer, also. Be sure to leach out traces of the high nitrogen fertilizer first.
- to watch paphiopedilums during the hot, dry days and do not let them dry out—remember they have no moisture storing pseudobulbs.
- to watch for snails and slugs—metaldehyde granules are excellent and do not leave a messy residue to attract children or pets.
- to keep a sharp watch for red spider; they like the hot, dry conditions. Kelthane, with a non-petroleum base is excellent. Be sure to spray underside of leaves thoroughly as this is their concentration point.
- to mist seedlings and other plants early in the mornings to prevent the shock of cold water on warm leaf surfaces.
- to be careful watering your phalaenopsis plants on hot, dry days. Cold water hitting the leaf surfaces can cause unsightly damage to the leaves.
- to avoid petroleum based insecticides. The oil base will coat the leaves and roots of orchid plants and prevent their breathing.

## ROSES BRIAN DONN

Now is the time—

- to continue your feeding program until mid-October—encourage fall bloom.
- to water well during blistering Santa Ana conditions.
- to do a thorough clean-up spray for mildew, rust, control of insects and worms. Funginex is excellent.
- to control mites with a thorough, drenching spray of kelthane.
- to clean-up any debris, especially spent foliage, from around the rose bushes.

## VEGETABLES GEORGE JAMES

Now is the time—

- to make the first planting of the cool season vegetables for winter by setting started plants now available—cabbage, chard, kale, and lettuce of all kinds.
- to plant seeds of mustard, peas, and the root vegetables.
- to water deeply as needed, instead of frequent light sprinkling—this will save both water and labor.
- to harvest vegetables now bearing heavily so they are in prime condition when used and the bushes and vines are encouraged to bear longer.
- to fertilize as needed so that plants grow vigorously and bear larger and more succulent edible parts.

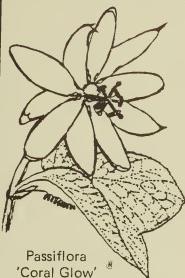
## GREEN THUMB ITEMS Penny Bunker

Now is the time—

- to prepare beds for bulbs with good humus.
- to feed lawns and sow the bare spots.
- to plant winter sweet peas.
- to fertilize mums until color shows.
- to divide Shasta daisies and transplant Belladonna lilies after blooming.
- to feed established plants with a balanced fertilizer; water thoroughly.
- to mulch with peat moss or ground bark around acid-loving plants such as azaleas, camellias, fuchsias in ground or large containers.
- to plant perennials for spring color.

Editor's note: As mentioned in this column, a "Santa Ana" is a San Diego term for a hot and dry windy condition.

## KARTUZ GREENHOUSES



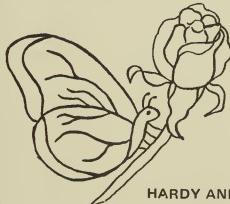
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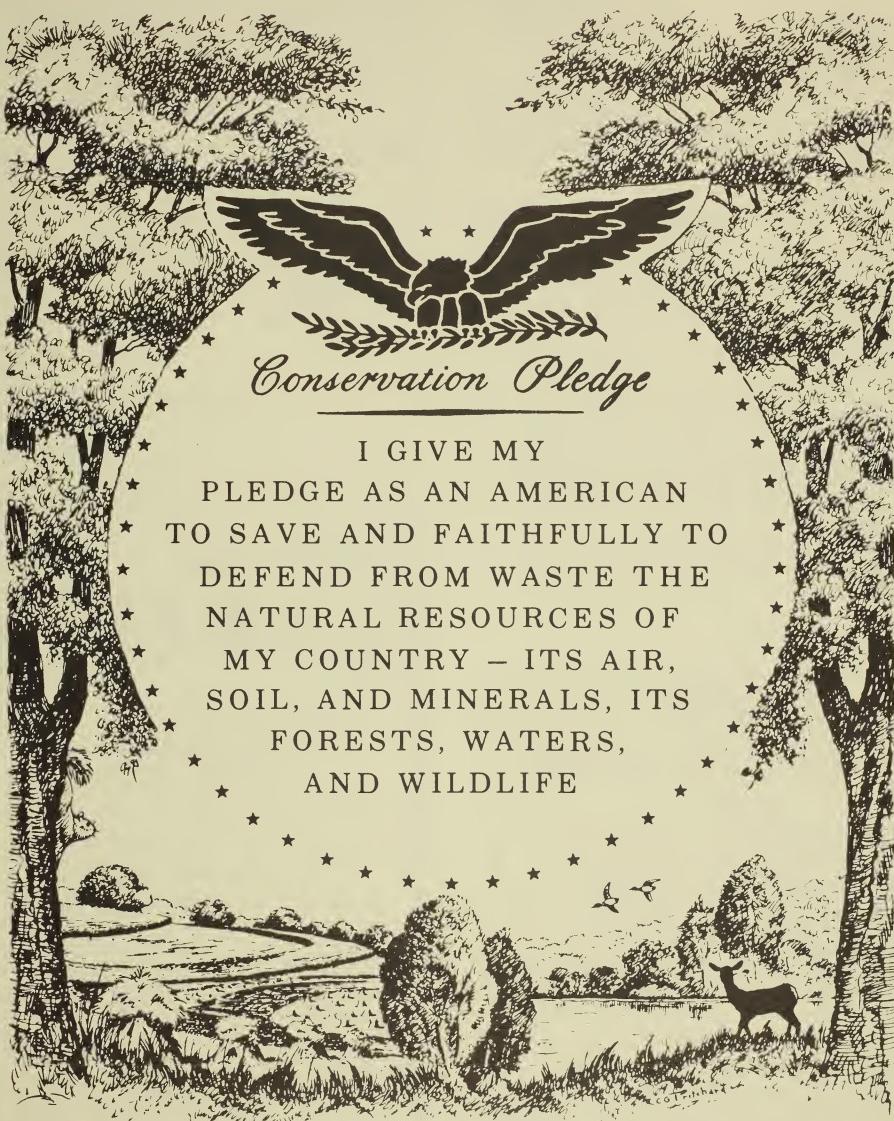
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